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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
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Agenda item 7

QUESTION OF THE REALIZATION IN ALL COUNTRIES OF THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS CONTAINED IN THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND IN THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, AND STUDY OF SPECIAL PROBLEMS WHICH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FACE IN THEIR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE THESE HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING: PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE RIGHT TO ENJOY AN ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING; FOREIGN DEBT, ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT POLICIES AND THEIR EFFECTS ON THE FULL ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND, IN PARTICULAR, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

Angola, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea*, Guatemala*, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan*, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar*, Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines*, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela: draft resolution

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* In accordance with rule 69, paragraph 3, of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Effects on the full enjoyment of human rights of the economic adjustment policies arising from foreign debt and, in particular, on the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling that the purpose of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is the full promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, namely, civil, political, economic, social and cultural,

Recalling also that one of the purposes of the United Nations is to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 32/130 of 16 December 1977,

Reaffirming the Declaration on Social Progress and Development proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969 and the Declaration on the Right to Development adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/128 of 4 December 1986,

Bearing in mind resolutions 1989/20 and 1989/21 of 31 August 1989, 1990/16 of 30 August 1990, 1991/27 of 29 August 1991, 1992/29 of 27 August 1992 and 1993/40 of 26 August 1993 of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

Recognizing that the activities of the various organizations in the United Nations system should be closely interrelated and that it is necessary to draw on all the efforts made in the various disciplines relating to man in order to promote all his rights effectively,

Having in mind the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s, adopted by the World Summit for Children on 30 September 1990 (E/CN.4/1991/59, annex),

Having in mind also the considerations of the World Bank contained in the publication World Debt Tables 1991-1992 (vol. 1) of December 1991, relating to the external debt of developing countries,

Aware that the serious problem of foreign debt remains one of the most acute factors adversely affecting economic and social development and the living standards of the inhabitants in many developing countries, with serious effects of a social nature,

Concerned about the repercussions of structural adjustment programmes in the realization of economic, social and cultural rights,

Deeply concerned that the debt-service obligations remain high, that the factors determining the capacity to pay have not moved in consonance with the debt-service obligations of the majority of developing countries, and that the prospects for reducing the adverse effects of the debt burden on the development process in developing countries continue to be uncertain,

Noting with regret that the negative effects of the policies adopted to face situations of external debt on the enjoyment of economic social and cultural rights,

Stressing that measures for debt reduction also need to be accompanied by vigorous efforts to improve the international economic environment in order to facilitate the growth and development of developing countries,

Considering that the new strategies for solving the debt problem, of both official and private origin, require policies of economic adjustment accompanied by growth and development and that it is essential, within those policies, to give priority consideration in their implementation to human conditions, including standards of living, health, food, education and employment of the population, especially among the most vulnerable and low-income groups,

Taking into account the particular concern expressed by the General Assembly at the growing deterioration of living conditions in the developing world, at its negative effects on the full enjoyment of human rights, and especially at the very serious economic situation of the African continent and at the terrible effects of the heavy burden of external debt on the developing countries,

Recalling its resolutions 1989/15 of 2 March 1989, 1990/17 and 1990/18 of 23 February 1990, 1991/13 of 22 February 1991, 1992/9 of 21 February 1992 and 1993/12 of 26 February 1993,

1. Stresses the importance of alleviating the debt and debt-service burdens of developing countries with debt problems in the framework of the realization of economic, social and cultural rights;

2. Also stresses the need to implement additional debt-reduction measures, including further cancellation or reduction of part of the official debt or debt-service, and the adoption of more urgent actions with regard to the commercial debt owed by developing countries;

3. Emphasizes that, in addition to debt-relief measures that include debt and debt-service reduction, there is a need for new financial flows to debtor developing countries, and urges the creditor countries and the multilateral financial institutions to continue to extend concessional financial assistance in order to support the implementation by the developing countries of their economic reform programmes, so as to enable them to achieve adequate technological and productive progress and extricate themselves from the debt overhang and to assist them in achieving economic growth and development;

4. Affirms that debt payments should not take precedence over the basic rights of the people of debtor countries to food, shelter, clothing, employment, health services and a healthy environment;

5. Requests the Working Group on the Right to Development to pay particular attention in its deliberations to the social repercussions that the policies being imposed to ensure debt payment by developing countries have and how they hinder the effective enjoyment of all human rights by the people of those countries;

6. Requests the Secretary-General, in accordance with the commitment derived from part I, paragraph 12, of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, to request the Governments of creditor countries to provide detailed information on the actions being taken to alleviate the debt burden of developing countries, and to submit to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-first session a compilation of the information requested;

7. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit, in a process of high-level consultations with heads of State or Government, as well as heads of the multilateral financial institutions and specialized agencies, a report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-first session on the adequate measures to

be implemented in order to find a durable solution to the debt crisis of developing countries so that they may fully enjoy all human rights;

8. Decides to continue to consider, at its fifty-first session, the agenda item entitled "Question of the realization in all countries of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and study of special problems which the developing countries face in their efforts to achieve these human rights, including: problems related to the right to enjoy an adequate standard of living; foreign debt, economic adjustment policies and their effects on the full enjoyment of human rights and, in particular, on the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development".